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# Message Text

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22-11
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /030 W
---------- 113163
R 211630Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3525

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ECOM, AR
SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION ISSUE THREATENS UOM-SMATA CONFRONTATION

1. A MINISTRY OF LABOR RESOLUTION DIRECTING THAT ALL AUTOMOBILE AND RELATED INDUSTRY ASSEMBLY WORKERS WILL HENCEFORTH BE REPRESENTED BY THE METAL WORKERS UNION (UOM) SPARKED WILD-CAT STRIKES AND AN AUTOMOBILE WORKERS UNION (SMATA) DECISION TO CALL EXTENDED STRIKES FOR NOVEMBER 24 AND 26. MINLABOR RESOLUTION WAS SIGNED NOVEMBER 14 BUT ONLY REVEALED TO SMATA LEADERS ON NOVEMBER 20 WHEN INDUSTRY SPOKESMAN SOUGHT CLARIFICATION FROM UNION. DECISION, IF CARRIED OUT, VIRTUALLY LIQUIDATES POWERFUL SMATA UNION LED BY CGT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY JOSE RODRIGUEZ.

2. LORENZO MIGUEL-LED UOM HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING FOR YEARS TO TAKE OVER THE 120,000 SMATA AFFILIATES WHO WORK IN THE AUTOMOBILE PLANTS. THROUGH HIS CONTROL OVER MINLABOR HE HAS CONSISTENTLY MANAGED TO FRUSTRATE SMATA EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PROGRESSIVE BENEFITS FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP. NEVERTHELESS, RODRIGUEZ CHOSE NOT TO DIRECTLY CONFRONT MIGUEL AT THIS TIME ALTHOUGH HIS HAND IN THE MATTER IS UNMISTAKABLE. RATHER, RODRIGUEZ STATED THAT DECISION WAS "AN OBVIOUS MISTAKE AND BAD FAITH" BY A MINLABOR OFFICIAL. HE ADVISED MINLABOR RUCKAUF THAT SMATA WOULD ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN ABROGATION OF RESOLUTION.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THE MYRIAD PROBLEMS OF THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY, AN INTER-UNION REPRESENTATION SQUABBLE IF EXTENDED OVER AN
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APPRECIABLE LENGTH OF TIME WULD HAVE SERIOUS ECONOMIC, AS WELL AS

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TRADE UNION, REPERCUSSIONS. AS SMATA IS FIGHTING FOR ITS VERY EXISTENCE, IT WILL NOT LIKELY ACCEPT THIS DECISION WITHOUT A BITTER AND VIOLENT STRUGGLE. SUCH A STRUGGLE WILL LIKELY BE AVOIDED ONLY IF THE MINLABOR CHANGES ITS RESOLUTION, WHICH REMAINS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY.
MONTLLOR

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR DISPUTES
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 21 NOV 1975
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** REPRESENTATION ISSUE THREATENS UOM-SMATA CONFRONTATION
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